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BIRDS COLLECTED DURING THE WHITNEY SOUTH SEA EXPEDITION. XXV[1]

NOTES ON THE GENERA *MYIAGRA* AND *MAYRORNIS*

BY ERNST MAYR

The present paper contains a continuation of the revisions of Polynesian genera. The rich material in the genus *Myiagra* has given me the welcome opportunity to discuss also the correlation between molt, breeding time and season in Polynesia (pp. 12, 14).

MYIAGRA Vigors and Horsfield

Myiagra VIGORS AND HORSFIELD, 1827, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, XV, p. 250.

Type (by subsequent designation, Gray, 1840, p. 23): *M. rubeculoides* = *Todus rubecula* Latham.

Submyiagra MATHEWS, 1913, Austral Av. Rec., II, p. 61, new name for

Platygnathus HARTLAUB, 1852, Arch. f. Naturg., p. 132. [*Nec Platygnathus* Audinet-S. 1832.] Type (by subsequent designation, Sharpe, 'Cat. Birds,' IV, p. 371): *M. rufiventris* Elliot (= *Platyrhynchos vanicorensis* Peale *nec Platyrhynchus vanikorensis* Quoy and Gaimard).

Mastersornis MATHEWS, 1917, Austral Av. Rec., III, p. 78, new name for *Myiagra* VIGORS AND HORSFIELD, 1827, and not *Myagrus* Boie, 1826.

Lophomyiagra MATHEWS, 1928, Nov. Zool., XXXIV, p. 373. Type (by original designation): *M. azureocapilla* Layard.

This genus, which is easily recognizable by its broad bill and the color pattern which is similar in all species, reaches from Australia southward to Tasmania, westward to Timor, Djampea, and the Moluccas, northward to Micronesia (Palau, Marianne, and Caroline Islands), and eastward to Central Polynesia. It is absent, however, from the greater part of New Guinea, where it occurs only along the southern coast. Mathews lists not less than seventeen species in the 'Systema Avium Australasianarum,' pp. 500–506. Many of these have, however, only subspecific rank, and others obviously represent each other (superspecies), although they may be called species for the present.

In structure and general color pattern all these forms are rather similar. The width of the bill is not uniform and is in some cases considerably less than in the typical species. This is particularly true for

[1]Previous papers in this series comprise American Museum Novitates, Nos. 115, 124, 149, 322, 337, 350, 356, 364, 365, 370, 419, 469, 486, 488, 489, 502, 504, 516, 520, 522, 531, 590, 609, and 628.

the western subspecies of *M. ferrocyanea*. The only species which differs somewhat from the other members of the genus is *M. azureocapilla* Layard. Mathews has created the new genus *Lophomyiagra* for this species, which I do not consider worth recognizing as a full genus. In the female plumage this species is quite similar to the other species of the genus *Myiagra*.

About 500 specimens from sixty islands representing four species with several subspecies were studied and measured during the preparation of the present paper.

SUPERSPECIES *Myiagra rubecula*

In my paper on the birds of Rennell Island[1] I proposed to regard all the broadbills of Polynesia [with the exception of *azureocapilla*] as members of one species which represented *M. rubecula* of Australia and *M. ferrocyanea* of the Solomon Islands, an arrangement which is certainly acceptable. However, a renewed and more extensive study of the group has convinced me that it is perhaps more correct to keep *caledonica* Bonaparte and *albiventris* Peale specifically distinct from *vanikorensis* Quoy and Gaimard. To indicate the close relation and the geographical representation, I include all these species in one superspecies. Further revisions will be necessary to find out how far to the west and north of Australia this superspecies extends.

Myiagra caledonica

RANGE.—New Caledonia, Loyalty Islands, New Hebrides, Banks Islands, Torres Islands, and Rennell Island.

Only two of the five recognized forms of this species are represented in the Whitney collection. In view of the unsatisfactory treatment, however, which this group received from Mathews in the 'Systema Avium Australasianarum,' I will give a short review of all the forms, although this already has been done in an excellent way by F. Sarasin.[2] The two new forms described by Sarasin in the same paper are rather doubtful. He saw two adult males from Maré, and only one adult male from each of the other islands. Judging from the descriptions, as I have not examined any material from the Loyalty Islands, the subspecies from Maré seems to be tenable, the one from Uvea, however, invalid. The range of individual variation on one island is far greater than the slight difference indicated by Sarasin in figures 12 and 13 on Taf. II (*op. cit.*).

[1] 1931, Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 486, p. 24.
[2] 1913, 'Die Vögel Neu-Caledoniens und der Loyalty-Inseln,' pp. 22–26.

Myiagra caledonica caledonica Bonaparte

Myiagra caledonica Bonaparte, 1857, Rev. et Mag. de Zool., p. 53, New Caledonia [description of male and female].

Myiagra perspicillata G. R. Gray, 1859, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 162, Nu Island, New Caledonia [description of juvenal male].

Range.—New Caledonia.

Myiagra caledonica viridinitens Gray

Myiagra viridinitens G. R. Gray, 1859, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 162, Lifu, Loyalty Islands [description of adult male].

Myiagra luguieri Tristram, 1879, Ibis, p. 188, Lifu, Loyalty Islands [description of adult male].

Myiagra intermedia Tristram, 1879, Ibis, p. 189, Lifu, Loyalty Islands [description of female].

Myiagra caledonica uweaensis F. Sarasin, 1913, 'Die Vögel Neu-Caledoniens und der Loyalty-Inseln,' p. 25, Ouvéa, Loyalty Islands.

Range.—Lifu and Uvea, Loyalty Islands.

Myiagra caledonica mareensis Sarasin

Myiagra caledonica mareensis F. Sarasin, 1913, *loc. cit.*, Maré, Loyalty Islands.

Range.—Maré, Loyalty Islands.

Myiagra caledonica melanura Gray

Myiagra melanura G. R. Gray, 1860, 'Cat. Birds Trop. Isl. Pac.,' 1859, p. 18 Erromango, New Hebrides [description of adult male].

Myiagra tannaensis Tristram, 1879, Ibis, p. 192, Tanna, New Hebrides [description of female].

Adult Male.—Head and throat glossy greenish black; back lighter and more grayish; wings and tail blackish with glossy green edges; tips of tail-feathers either entirely black or with narrow white edges; abdomen, flanks and under tail-coverts white.

Adult Female.—Crown, hind neck and sides of neck gray with a greenish gloss; back olive brown, rump more grayish; chin, throat, and upper breast ochraceous orange to tawny; lower breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts whitish; wing-feathers and tail-feathers brownish, edges of wing-coverts and secondaries cinnamon or buffy.

Immature.—Similar to adult female, but bill horn-colored and with whitish base, not black; throat and breast paler, belly distinctly washed with buff; tips on wing-coverts, secondaries and tail-feathers broader and more whitish.

Culmen, 21; tarsus, 18 mm. (in adult males).

	Adult Males	
	Wing	Tail
Efate	76–81 (78.2)	62–70 (65.2)
Epi and Mai	78–81 (79.2)	64–67 (65.8)
Santo	77–80 (78.6)	65–67 (66.5)
Malekula	76–80 (78.1)	65–68 (66.3)
Banks Is.	77–81 (79.4)	64–70 (67.5)
Sou, Torres Is.	77	64

These figures show that there is no geographical variation of size. I therefore combine the figures of the females from the different islands:

ADULT FEMALES

WING	TAIL
74–77 (75.7)	62–64 (62.9)

RANGE.—New Hebrides (Aneiteum, Tanna, Erromango, Efate, Nguna, Mau, Mataso, Mai, Tongoa, Epi, Aoba, Pentecost, Aurora, Malekula, Malo, Dolphin, Santo), Banks Islands (Gaua, Vanua Lava, Valua, Bligh), and Torres Islands (Sou).

There are no essential differences between the birds from the various islands. Males from the Banks Islands and northern New Hebrides on the average have the glossy parts more greenish. There is much irregularity in this character, however. Females show a great deal of individual variation, which affects the amount of metallic gloss on the gray crown, the shade of ochraceous tawny on the throat and of the ocher on the wing-coverts, the width of the whitish edge of the outer tail-feathers, and the color of the back. However, there are no geographical tendencies expressed in this variation.

The single specimen from the Torres Islands differs somewhat from typical birds by having a more bluish gloss and the bill rather narrow. More material is necessary to decide whether or not these characters are constant.

Myiagra caledonica occidentalis Mayr

Myiagra vanikorensis occidentalis MAYR, 1931, Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 486, p. 24, Rennell Island.

RANGE.—Rennell Island.

Particulars about this subspecies are given in the original description.

Myiagra vanikorensis

RANGE.—Santa Cruz and Fiji Islands.

Myiagra vanikorensis vanikorensis (Quoy and Gaimard)

Platyrhynchos vanikorensis QUOY AND GAIMARD, 1830, 'Voy. "Astrol.,"' Zool. I, p. 183 (Pl. v, fig. 1), Vanikoro, Santa Cruz.

ADULT MALE.—Crown, sides of head, and throat glossy bluish black; rest of upperside dark gray, with some bluish gloss, particularly on upper back and upper tail-coverts; wing-feathers and tail-feathers black with glossy bluish edges, especially on the upper wing-coverts; tips of outer tail-feathers sometimes with whitish or buffy edges, sometimes pure black; lower breast tawny, abdomen, flanks, and under tail-coverts paler; axillaries gray with buff tips, under wing-coverts blackish with a few buff tips, thighs blackish, and inner edges of wing-feathers whitish.

ADULT FEMALE.—Crown and sides of head gray with an indistinct bluish gloss, lighter on forehead and lores; back, scapulars, and rump olivaceous gray; wing-feathers and tail-feathers brownish; wing-coverts with ochraceous edges, secondaries with buffy edges; entire underside ochraceous orange to ochraceous buff, chin, lower abdomen, and under tail-coverts lighter; tail-feathers, at least outer ones, with narrow white edges.

IMMATURE.—Similar to adult female, but wing-feathers more rounded, tail-feathers pointed; lower mandible brownish, not black; wing-coverts and secondaries with whitish edges, white tips on tail-feathers broader; entire underside lighter.

Culmen, 17–18; tarsus, 16–17 (in adult males).

	WING	TAIL
9 ♂ ad.	66–68 (66.9)	54–57 (55.7)
6 ♀ ad.	65–67 (65.5)	53–56 (54.2)

RANGE.—Vanikoro Island, Santa Cruz Islands.

These are apparently the only specimens known besides the type. The locality Vanikoro Island, assigned by Quoy and Gaimard to their new species, has often been questioned during the past hundred years. The rediscovery of this species by the Whitney Expedition definitely proved the correctness of the type locality indicated by the original describers, although the measurements alone given by Quoy and Gaimard furnish evidence enough that their specimen did not come from Fiji.

Myiagra vanikorensis rufiventris Elliot[1]

Myiagra rufiventris ELLIOT, 1859, Ibis, p. 393, "Samoan or Navigator's Islands," by error, hereby restricted to Viti Levu, Fiji Islands.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Male: of small size and with small bill; abdomen light; under tail-coverts mostly whitish; tibial feathers whitish; bluish zone of throat usually sharply defined against the breast and not reaching very low; secondaries with light edges; upper tail-coverts frequently with light edges, at least not with bluish glossy edges; wing-bend (lesser under wing-coverts) with broad whitish edges; back grayish. Female: small; back (in fresh specimens), almost pure gray; upper tail-coverts with broad whitish edges; edges of greater wing-coverts and of secondaries whitish, not buffy; lores and feathers of forehead light (whitish gray); under parts light; throat mostly whitish; under tail-coverts whitish or ochraceous buff.

ADULT MALE.—Head and throat glossy greenish black; rest of upperside grayish with a faint gloss; breast and abdomen ochraceous buff, richer on the breast.

ADULT FEMALE.—Crown and sides of head dark gray with a greenish-blue gloss; rest of upperside light neutral gray; chin and upper throat whitish; lower throat, breast and belly pale ochraceous.

IMMATURE MALE.—Similar to the adult female, but bill not black but dark brown, with a whitish base; lores darker, crown and ear-coverts much more glossy, light edges on secondaries wider; broad whitish or buffy tips on greater wing-coverts;

[1]The name *Myiagra castaneiventris* Finsch and Hartlaub, 1867, 'Beitr. Faun. Centr. Polynes.,' p. 95, cannot be applied to this form on account of article 31 of the 'International Rules of Zool. Nomenclature,' being based on a misidentification of *Monarcha castaneiventris* Verreaux.

primaries more rounded, and tail-feathers more pointed; underside frequently much richer ochraceous.

Some of the immature males wear a "progressive plumage": that is, a plumage somewhat intermediate between the immature and the adult plumage. These birds have more or less the typical immature plumage, but in the region of the throat have some feathers which are either glossy black or half whitish and half blackish. I originally thought that these were the first feathers of the adult plumage just appearing in the molt, but closer examination convinced me that they belong to the same generation of feathers as the other immature plumes.

IMMATURE FEMALE.—Similar to the adult female, but with the usual signs of immaturity on bill, wings, and tail. Differs from the immature male by lacking the gloss on crown and ear-coverts and usually by the paler coloration of the under parts.

NESTLING.—Very different from adult. Entire underside whitish or light buff; feathers on breast with fuscous tips forming a dark breast-band. Entire upperside, sooty wing-coverts and upper tail-coverts with broad buffy tips. This entire plumage is of a silky, downy nature.

This plumage is exchanged for the immature plumage (not affecting wing- and tail-feathers nor primary-coverts nor greater wing-coverts). This molt begins with the crown and the lower throat, and ends on the under and upper tail-coverts.

The birds united by me under the name *rufiventris* Elliot do not form an entirely uniform population. We have the same problem as that encountered in many previous revisions of Polynesian genera which are distributed over a large number of islands. As in those cases I have refrained from naming all these minor deviations and content myself in outlining briefly the trends of geographical variation.

ADULT MALES

Birds from Ovalau agree practically with typical Viti Levu specimens.

MALOLO AND MALAKI (off shore of Viti Levu).—Two very worn specimens, average underneath lighter, under tail-coverts white; back rather glossy. Some of the differences may be due to wear.

NGAU.—Very light.

YASAWA ISLANDS.—Abdomen averaging slightly richer rufous; upperside apparently as in Viti Levu birds, with the same individual variation; some birds have the back more grayish, some more glossy; some have the gloss more greenish blue, some more bluish.

VIWA.—Underside still more richly tinted, practically no more overlapping.

VANUA LEVU.—Very much like Viwa birds, with the underside much richer than in Viti Levu; a great deal of individual variation.

MATHUATA AND KIO.—Identical with Vanua Levu birds.

YENDUA, YANUTHA, THOMBIA.—Underside still darker, back often rather glossy.

THIKOMBIA.—In most characters definitely approaching *dorsalis*. Underside rather dark, back glossy, light edges on secondaries and upper tail-coverts reduced, bluish region of throat extended.

NAMENA, NAIRAI, MBATIKI, AND WAKAYA.—With very dark abdomen and rather glossy back, but otherwise typical *rufiventris*.

ADULT FEMALES

The females also show differences in their characters from island to island. The trends of variation do not run exactly parallel to those of the males, although Ngau females also have the lightest coloration and Koro females the darkest; the coloration of the upperside seems not to vary.

OVALAU, WAKAYA, YASAWA ISLANDS, AND VANUA LEVU.—Similar to typical Viti Levu females. Considerable individual variation.

NGAU.—Very light; entire throat white; under tail-coverts whitish; abdomen pale ochraceous buff.

VIWA.—Ochraceous tones on underside rather rich; area of white on throat restricted.

KIO, RAMBI, THOMBIA, AND THIKOMBIA.—Underneath richer than typical birds; upperside apparently somewhat darker (specimens worn!); light edges on secondaries apparently narrower; otherwise quite typical and not approaching *dorsalis* in any character.

KORO AND NAMENA.—Very rich ochraceous underneath; whitish on throat reduced to small area on chin; under tail-coverts always ochraceous buff; back less pure gray; edges of secondaries not pure white, but washed with buff.

		WING	TAIL	CULMEN
Viti Levu, Malaki, Malolo, Ovalau	10 ♂ ad.	70–75 (72.4)	53–58 (55.8)	17.5–18.5 (18.2)
Viwa	5 ♂ ad.	71–75 (73.0)	54–59 (56.4)	17.5–18 (17.9)
Ngau	2 ♂ ad.	73, 76	57, 59	18, 19
Koro	8 ♂ ad.	70–75 (72.2)	55–60 (56.9)	18
Wakaya, Mbatiki, Nairai, Namena	6 ♂ ad.	72–75 (73.8)	58–60 (59.4)	
Yendua	2 ♂ ad.	74, 75	59, 59	18, 18.5
Vanua Levu, Mathuata, Rambi, Kio, Taviuni	17 ♂ ad.	70–75 (72.6)	55–58 (56.0)	17–18.5 (17.8)
Yanutha, Thombia	7 ♂ ad.	75–76 (75.2)	57–61 (59.0)	19–19.5 (19.1)
Thikombia	3 ♂ ad.	74–76 (75.0)	59–63(60.6)	18.5–20 (19.3)
Total for all islands except the three last	♂ ad.	70–76 (72.9)	53–60 (56.8)	17–19 (18.0)
	♀ ad.	67–72	52–59	17–19

		Wing	Tail	Culmen
Viwa	3 ♀ ad.	67–70 (69.0)	52.5, 55 (53.7)	18–19 (18.7)
Yasawa Islands	8 ♀ ad.	68–70 (69.1)	53–55 (53.7)	17.5–18.5 (18.3)
Viti Levu, Ovalau	5 ♀ ad.	68–70 (69.1)	53–54 (53.8)	17.5–18.5 (17.9)
Namena	1 ♀ ad.	70	56.5	18
Wakaya	1 ♀ ad.	70	54.5	
Ngau	3 ♀ ad.	70, 71 (70.5)	57–59 (57.6)	17.5–18 (17.8)
Koro	5 ♀ ad.	67–72 (70.2)	54–59 (56.5)	17–19 (18.0)
Vanua Levu, Mathuata, Kio, Rambi	7 ♀ ad.	68.5–72 (70.4)	53–56.5 (54.6)	17–18 (17.7)
Thombia	1 ♀ ad.	71	56	18.5
Thikombia	2 ♀ ad.	72, 72	57.5, 57.5	18, 19.5

These measurements also reveal slight variations from island to island. Birds from Ngau and Koro have rather long tails; those from Yanutha, Thombia, and particularly Thikombia, are slightly larger in all measurements.

Range.—Islands of northern and northwestern Fiji: Viwa, Yasawa Islands (Monuriki, Navandra, Waia, Naviti, Matathoni, Asawa ilau, Nathoulla, Yasawa), Viti Levu, Malaki, Malolo, Ngualilo, Ovalau, Wakaya, Mbatiki, Nairai, Namena, Ngau, Koro, Yendua, Mathuata, Vanua Levu, Kio, Rambi, Taviuni, Thombia, Yanutha, and Thikombia.

There has been considerable uncertainty about the name of this subspecies. Most authors used the name *vanikorensis* for the Fijian birds, considering the type locality Vanikoro as erroneous. However, as I have shown above, Vanikoro is inhabited by a perfectly distinct subspecies.

The Samoan Islands were given as the habitat of *M. rufiventris* Elliot (from the Verreaux collection) in the original description. Much collecting in the last seventy years has failed to find that form on the Samoan Islands, and it has become obvious that the type of *rufiventris*, like so many other birds from the Verreaux collection, was wrongly labeled and really came from the Fiji Islands. The recent description of a new subspecies from eastern Fiji (*townsendi*) and the recognition of two additional subspecies from Fiji in the present revision has made it necessary to examine the type in the British Museum. The type is old and faded, and it is somewhat difficult to ascertain its essential characters. The back is rather grayish, the underside light, the under tail-coverts almost whitish. The bird shows thus the essential characters of Viti

Levu birds, and it has seemed to be the wisest action to restrict the type locality to Viti Levu, the largest and most visited island of the Fiji group.

Myiagra vanikorensis kandavensis, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 251702, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Kandavu, Fiji Islands; November 11, 1924; R. H. Beck.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Male: similar to *rufiventris* Elliot, but much deeper rufous on the abdomen (almost hazel), under tail-coverts deep ocher or tawny; upperside darker, back always somewhat glossy; light edges on upper tail-coverts, secondaries, lesser under wing-coverts, and tibial feathers narrower.

Female: underside much more richly colored, under tail-coverts ochraceous, extent of white on throat reduced, back darker and less pure gray, crown averaging more glossy, light edges on secondaries and upper tail-coverts reduced.

		WING	TAIL	CULMEN
Kandavu	7 ♂ ad.	70–75 (72.6)	54–61 (57.4)	17–18
Small islands of Kandavu group	6 ♂ ad.	72–75 (73.2)	56–60 (58.0)	
Mbengha	2 ♂ ad.	72, 73	55, 56	
Vatu leile	4 ♂ ad.	74–76 (74.5)	57–61 (59.0)	18–18.5
Total	19 ♂ ad.	70–76 (73.2)	54–61 (57.8)	17–18.5 (18.0)
Ndravuni Yankuve Vanua kula	3 ♀ ad.	68, 69, 70	52, 53, 56	17, 17, 18

RANGE.—Kandavu, small islands of Kandavu group (Ono, Yankuve, Yankuve lailai, Ndravuni, Vanua kula and Mbulia), Mbengha and Vatu leile.

This subspecies is rather similar to *rufiventris* and differs only in the stronger pigmentation. Birds from Mbengha approach *rufiventris*, just as birds from Koro approach *kandavensis*. Birds from Vatu leile are still darker than the Kandavu specimens.

Myiagra vanikorensis dorsalis, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 223757, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♀ ad.; Matuku Island, Fiji Islands; July 3, 1924; R. H. Beck.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Male: very similar to that of *townsendi*, but lower back averaging lighter and more grayish; underside more uniformly colored; dark rufous-brown breast-band and lighter colored lower belly not contrasting.

Female: large as *townsendi*, but in coloration intermediate between *townsendi* and *rufiventris;* back deep grayish olive; upper tail-coverts with faint or no light edges; edges of secondaries light buff, edges of wing-coverts olivaceous gray, with a slight ochraceous tinge; forehead and lores grayish, not whitish; underside deep ocher, even richer than in *townsendi;* extent of white on throat varying.

IMMATURE.—Differs from the adult as in *rufiventris*.

MALES

		WING	TAIL	CULMEN
Matuku	9 ♂ ad.	75–78 (76.3)	60–65 (62.7)	18–19 (18.5)
Moala	10 ♂ ad.	75–78 (76.3)	62–65 (62.9)	
Totoya	4 ♂ ad.	73–76 (74.8)	63 (63.0)	
Naitamba	1 ♂ ad.	79	68	
Yathata, Vatu vara, Avea, Munia, Sovu, Vanua mbalavu, Mango	20 ♂ ad.	73–79 (76.5)	60–67 (64.0)	18–19 (18.3)
Thithia	3 ♂ ad.	73–74 (73.6)	59–63 (61.3)	18–18.5 (18.2)

FEMALES

		WING	TAIL	CULMEN
Matuku	3 ♀ ad.	73–74.5 (73.8)	59–63 (61.0)	18–19 (18.5)
Moala	1 ♀ ad.	71.5	59	18.5
Totoya	2 ♀ ad.	71, 72 (71.5)	60, 61 (60.5)	19, 19 (19.0)
Wailangila	1 ♀ ad.	71	60.5	18
Vatu vara, Mango, Vanua mbalavu, Avea	8 ♀ ad.	71.5–74 (72.4)	59–62 (61.4)	17.5–19 (18.4)
Thithia	1 ♀ ad.	74	61.5	18

RANGE.—Southern central Fiji Islands (Matuku, Moala, and Totoya) and northern Lau Archipelago (Wailangila, Naitamba, Yathata, Vatu varu, Avea, Sovu Rocks, Vanua mbalavu, Munia, Mango, and Thithia).

This new subspecies is very similar to *townsendi* Wetmore in the male sex, but differs from that form considerably in the female plumage. A female has therefore been selected as type.

There is a certain degree of individual variation just as in the other races. The males have sometimes more and sometimes less gloss on the back, the gloss is sometimes more greenish and sometimes more bluish. The females are sometimes more grayish on the back, sometimes more olivaceous brown, but never as much as in *townsendi*. The amount of ochraceous on the edges of the wing-coverts is also varying to some degree.

There is also a slight variation in the size as can be seen from the table of measurements. Birds from Totoya, Thithia, and Naitamba are not quite typical.

Myiagra vanikorensis townsendi Wetmore

Myiagra townsendi Wetmore, 1919, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., LXIII, p. 205, Kambara Island, Lau Archipelago, Fiji Islands.

Subspecific Characters.—Male: large, with long tail and bill; underside dark, particularly on the lower breast, lighter toward abdomen and under tail-coverts; glossy zone on throat larger, covering also sides of the breast; back more or less strongly glossy; gloss frequently more greenish than in *rufiventris;* secondaries without light edges, upper tail-coverts with glossy bluish or greenish edges; lesser under wing-coverts darker, only with narrow light edges; thighs dark.

Female: large; back more or less light olivaceous-brown sharply contrasting with bluish-gray crown; upper tail-coverts without or with very faint light edges; edges of secondaries pale ochraceous; edges of wing-coverts more or less strongly washed with rich ochraceous; lores and forehead grayish; underparts rich ochraceous, but not so dark as *dorsalis.*

Immature plumages as in *rufiventris.*

		Wing	Tail	Culmen
		Males		
Kambara	9 ♂ ad.	76–80 (77.8)	64–68 (66.4)	18–19.5 (19.0)
Ongea levu, Fulanga, Wangava, Namuka ilau	11 ♂ ad.	73–77 (75.8)	62.5–67 (64.9)	17.5–19 (18.2)
Aiwa	5 ♂ ad.	76–78 (77.4)	63–66 (65.0)	18–19 (18.7)
Vanua vatu	6 ♂ ad.	76–78 (76.8)	64–66 (64.8)	18–19 (18.6)
		Females		
Kambara	5 ♀ ad.	71–74 (72.6)	61–65 (63.0)	18.5–19.5 (18.9)
Ongea levu, Fulanga, Wangava, Namuka ilau	11 ♀ ad.	71–74 (72.0)	59–63 (62.0)	17.5–19 (18.1)
Aiwa	3 ♀ ad.	73–74 (73.3)	62–65 (63.3)	18–19 (18.3)
Vanua vatu	6 ♀ ad.	71–76 (73.8)	62–67 (64.0)	18.5–19 (18.7)

Range.—Southern Lau Archipelago, Fiji Islands (Ongea Levu, Fulanga, Yangasa Cluster, Namuka ilau, Kambara, Wangava, Vanua vatu, Oneata, Aiwa, Lakemba, Komo, Mothe).

The males are remarkably uniform over this range, the females show slight differences on the more isolated islands. Females from Vanua vatu have the underside rather rich ochraceous; such from Aiwa are rather grayish on the upperside, thus approaching *dorsalis.* Unfortunately, there are no adult females from Lakemba in the collection.

SEASON, BREEDING TIME, AND MOLT IN *Myiagra vanikorensis* IN FIJI

The unusually rich material of immature and molting birds of *Myiagra vanikorensis* from the Fiji Islands permits me to draw definite conclusions about the influence of season on the breeding time and molt of this species.

The existence of such a seasonal influence has been shown also in the specimens of *Pachycephala* and *Foulehaio*, treated in some of my previous papers. The material of these species however, came from only a restricted number of islands and did not contain many immature birds. In this respect the material of the species *Myiagra vanikorensis* is much superior, although not quite perfect. No collecting was done by the Whitney South Sea Expedition in the Fiji Islands during March and very little during April, May, and June. The rich material from the other months of the year allows some indisputable conclusions.

The Fiji Islands, although lying in the tropical zone (between 16° and 20° S.), have very definite seasons. There is a steady easterly or southeasterly trade wind blowing from April to October, accompanied by fairly cool weather ("winter season"), and a "summer season" from November to March with warmer weather, frequent calms, and occasional hurricanes. This latter time of the year is the breeding season of most Fijian birds.

The number of birds with enlarged gonads in the different months of the year and the changes of the plumage in the adult birds and in the immature birds contribute the evidence from which I draw my conclusions.

SIZE OF GONADS.—The gonads of adult birds, as described on the labels of the specimens collected on the Fiji Islands, show a varying development during the twelve months of the year.

	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Condition of gonads												
Number of specimens with enlarged gonads	[1]	1	[1]	0	6	26	35	18	11	28	22	5
Number of specimens with small gonads	[1]	1	1	8	26	32	5	3	1	13	17	12
Percentage from total of birds with enlarged gonads	Insufficient material			0	19	45	88	86	92	68	56	30

[1] No material available.

This table shows that the height of the mating season lies in the months of September, October, and November; from then on a distinct falling off can be noticed. In the winter months, May, June, and July, the vast majority of the birds have small gonads. It is interesting to see that the period of enlarged gonads is much shorter with the females than with the males. After November only very few females show any increase in the size of the gonads.

Molt in Adult Birds.—All the specimens taken from May to August are in fine fresh plumage. Later in the season (September to November) the first signs of wear become apparent, and practically all the specimens taken in December and January have a very worn plumage. The molt begins in December in one or two specimens, less than 25 per cent of the specimens taken in January are molting, but in February more than 70 per cent of the specimens are in full molt. It can be assumed that the molt is being completed in March (and April), but no specimens are in the collection to substantiate this statement. However, all the birds collected in May and June are in fine fresh plumage.

Molt in Immature Birds.—The evidence derived from the plumage of immature birds is correlated very closely with the conclusions just presented. If we classify immature plumages into six groups we can arrange them in a table as follows:

I.—Birds in nestling plumage.
II.—Birds molting from the nestling plumage into the immature plumage.
III.—Birds in the immature plumage with a few nestling feathers.
IV.—Birds in fresh immature plumage.
V.—Birds in worn immature plumage.
VI.—Birds molting from the immature into the adult plumage.

	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Januarry	February	March	April
I						1		2	1	2		
II					2			2	2	2	1	
III				1				3	1	1	1	1
IV	[1]	1	9	6	1		1	1	8	4	1	1
V					2	4		1				
VI							3	8	2			

[1]Insufficient material. Specimens in these columns could be expected, if ample collections had been made in the months of March, April, and May.

DISCUSSION.—Practically all nestlings were collected in the months of December, January, and February. Exceptions are two nestlings from Avea, collected in September, and one bird from Matuku with a few immature upper tail-coverts. One bird in fresh immature plumage was collected in November, and one in December. From then on such immatures are common until August, in September and October immatures are more or less badly worn; and in November the molt into the adult plumage begins. The molt of these immature birds is thus earlier than that of the adult birds. It is an open question whether or not these birds begin breeding as soon as they have changed into the adult plumage. In two out of thirteen birds molting into the adult plumage, the gonads are indicated as large or swelling.

Myiagra albiventris (Peale)

Platyrhynchus albiventris PEALE, 1848, 'U. S. Explor. Exped.,' VIII (Birds), p. 102, Pl. XXVII, fig. 3, Upolu, Samoa.

ADULT MALE.—Chin, throat, and upper breast orange-brown (between xanthine orange and amber brown, R. III), sometimes lighter, sometimes darker; feathers of throat with white bases; sides of breast with a patch of bluish-gray feathers; lower breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts white; forehead, crown, and sides of head black with a strong bluish gloss; back, scapulars, and rump dark gray with a greenish-blue gloss; wing and tail black, feathers with bluish-gray edges; wing-coverts with glossy blue edges; axillaries and under wing-coverts whitish with dark gray centers.

Iris brown, bill bluish black, feet black.

ADULT FEMALE.—Similar to the male, but smaller; patch on the sides of the breast olivaceous gray, not bluish gray; throat lighter; gloss on upper parts much reduced, crown not much contrasting with the back; wings and tail fuscous black, not deep black as in the males.

IMMATURE MALE.—Like the adult female, but duller; edges of wing-feathers and wing-coverts sooty.

NESTLING.—Body plumage downy; upperside sooty, scapulars and wing-coverts with dirty whitish tips; lower breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts pure white; throat and upper breast buffy ochraceous; feathers on breast with fuscous tips, forming a dark breast-band.

		WING	TAIL
Upolu	9 ♂ ad.	70–74 (72.3)	59–66 (61.5)
	4 ♀ ad.	67–70 (68.8)	57–60 (58.3)
Savaii	8 ♂ ad.	72–76 (73.1)	60–67 (63.1)
	6 ♀ ad.	67–71 (69.2)	58–63 (59.7)

Tarsus, 15–17; culmen, 16–18 mm.

RANGE.—Upolu and Savaii, Samoan Islands.

Birds from Savaii average slightly larger, and males tend to have the back slightly more glossy than Upolu males. These differences are very insignificant, however.

Subgenus **Lophomyiagra** Mathews

Lophomyiagra Mathews, 1928, Nov. Zool., XXXIV, p. 373. Type (by original designation): *Myiagra azureocapilla* Layard.

Characters.—Bill somewhat inflated without a definite ridge on the mandible; crown covered with a crest of curious stiff silky feathers forming a pattern of decomposed scales.

The only species of the subgenus agrees in all of its essential characters with the other species of the genus, its color-characters coinciding almost perfectly with those of *Myiagra albiventris*. The characters of bill and crown appear to be significant enough to warrant the subgeneric separation of this species.

Myiagra (Lophomyiagra) azureocapilla

Range.—Taviuni, Vanua Levu, and Viti Levu, Fiji Islands.

Myiagra azureocapilla azureocapilla Layard

Myiagra azureocapilla Layard, 1875, Ibis, p. 434, Taviuni, Fiji.

Adult Male.—Feathers of crown and cheeks and ear-coverts pale mazarine blue (R. IX), elongated and with a peculiar structure (between silky and scaly); forehead, lores, superciliary, circum- and post-ocular region blackish; hind neck, partly covered by the crest, bluish black; back, sides of neck, edges of wing-coverts and of secondaries dark slatish blue, sometimes almost blackish; upper tail-coverts black with bluish edges; tail and wings black with grayish-blue edges; throat chestnut, feathers on chin with buff bases, lower throat sometimes suffused with bluish; rest of underside white, feathers with broad black bases, thighs blackish; flanks and under tail-coverts sometimes with a light buffy wash; outermost tail-feathers with narrow whitish tips.

"Iris brown, bill orange, feet grayish green."

Adult Female.—Crown dark gray, feathers with a glossy blue edge; forehead and lores whitish; circumference of eye more or less whitish; anterior part of ear-coverts fuscous, posterior part whitish; back dark rufous brown, more cinnamon toward the rump; tips of wing-coverts tawny; chin and upper throat whitish, chestnut band across lower throat and upper chest; rest of underside buffy white, flanks with a pale tawny wash; thighs fuscous; under tail-coverts buffy; edges of wing-feathers grayish cinnamon; tail and upper tail-coverts blackish, rather broad whitish tips on the outer tail-feathers.

"Iris brown, maxilla brown, mandible orange, feet greenish."

Immature Female.—Similar to adult female, but all colors duller; crown brownish gray, breast-band much lighter; upper tail-coverts brownish, underside more washed with buff.

	Wing	Tail	Culmen
11 ♂ ad.	80–86 (83.6)	69–77 (72.8)	16–17
8 ♀ ad.	78–83 (79.9)	68–70 (69.0)	16–17

Tarsus, 21 mm.

Range.—Taviuni Island (Dec. 1924).

Most birds are worn and apparently near the end of the breeding season. One immature female was collected.

Myiagra azureocapilla castaneigularis Layard

Myiagra castaneigularis Layard, 1876, Ibis, p. 389, Kandi (Bua), Vanua Levu, Fiji Islands.

Subspecific Characters.—Male: similar to *azureocapilla*, but smaller; throat golden brown, not deep chestnut; this difference is caused mainly by the coloration of the base of the feathers, which is light, not blackish as in *azureocapilla;* blackish base on the feathers of abdomen also reduced, the abdomen thus appearing lighter; upperside more or less as in *azureocapilla*, but crest-feathers shorter; outer tail-feathers broadly tipped, inner tail-feathers narrowly tipped with white, central pair frequently without any white or only a faint edge; axillaries and under wing-coverts also with much more white than in *azureocapilla*.

Female.—Similar to that of *azureocapilla*, but smaller; back more olivaceous cinnamon, less rufous brown, white areas in the eye region and on the ear-coverts much reduced or absent; chin orange-buff, throat golden brown with short light-gray bases to the feathers; abdomen purer white; flanks buffy, not extensively pale tawny; tail-feathers with broad white tips, not with ill-defined buffy whitish tips as in *azureocapilla*.

Immature Female.—Differs from adult female as in *azureocapilla;* back frequently more rufous than that of the adult; mandible brownish.

	Wing	Tail	Culmen
7 ♂ ad.	72–78 (75.1)	64–72 (66.7)	16–17
5 ♀ ad.	74–78 (75.0)	63–69 (66.2)	

Tarsus, 20 mm.

Range.—Vanua Levu, Fiji Islands (Jan., Feb. 1925).

Most specimens are molting and not in breeding condition.

Myiagra azureocapilla whitneyi, new subspecies

Type.—No. 252040, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Viti Levu, Fiji Islands; May 5, 1925; R. H. Beck.

Subspecific Characters.—Male: very similar to *castaneigularis*, but slightly smaller; throat darker brown and feathers of crest shorter; back and edges of wing-feathers not so pure blue, more grayish; white tips on tail-feathers much shorter.

Female: very similar to *castaneigularis*, but smaller, throat darker brown, white tips on tail-feathers shorter.

	Wing	Tail	Culmen
12 ♂ ad.	71–76 (73.6)	62–68 (65.3)	16
2 ♀ ad.	73	60, 60	16

Tarsus, 19–20 mm.

Range.—Viti Levu, Fiji Islands.

Most specimens were collected in May and are in fresh plumage, some of the birds collected in March and April are still molting.

MAYRORNIS Wetmore

Mayrornis WETMORE, 1932, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XLV, p. 104. Type (by original designation): *Rhipidura lessoni* Gray.

Muscylva auctorum, *nec* Lesson; *Haplornis* auctorum, *nec* Wetmore.

CHARACTERS.—Rictal bristles not strongly developed; bill slender; tarsi and feet relatively weak; no sexual dimorphism in coloration; small size; otherwise similar to other Polynesian flycatchers.

Mayrornis lessoni

RANGE.—Fiji Islands.

Mayrornis lessoni lessoni (Gray)

R.[hipidura] Lessoni G. R. GRAY, 1846, 'Gen. Birds,' I, p. 258 [based on Muscylva de Lesson, 'Voy. au Pole Sud.,' Oiseaux, Pl. XI, fig. 2, Balaou =], Ovalau.

Monarcha cinerea PEALE, 1848, 'U. S. Explor. Exped.,' VIII, p. 101, Viti Levu.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Bill short and broad; tips of lower rump feathers whitish, upper tail-coverts also broadly edged with white; tertials and secondaries more or less broadly edged with whitish gray; greater upper wing-coverts with broad whitish tips; under wing-coverts prominently white; tibial feathering light gray; cheeks light gray, and superciliary very pronounced.

DESCRIPTION (adult male and female).—Upperside neutral gray, lower rump lighter; upper tail-coverts black with broad whitish tips; wings blackish, edges of primaries and primary-coverts light gray; edges of greater upper wing-coverts and edges and tips of secondaries whitish gray; part of forehead, lores, superciliary stripe, and circumocular feathers white; underside whitish gray, darker on the breast, lighter, almost white on the chin and in the middle of the abdomen; under tail-coverts white; tibial feathers gray with whitish tips; axillaries white, under wing-coverts white with a few grayish spots; tail black, tail-feathers with white tips, which are largest on the outermost tail-feathers occupying about one-third of the feather, and decreasing toward the central feathers; the central pair has only a very narrow white tip.

Iris, brown; bill, bluish; feet, grayish.

IMMATURE.—Very similar to adult, but mandible with a yellow base; plumage of back frequently with an olivaceous wash; edges of primary-coverts, greater upper wing-coverts, tertials and secondaries washed with rufous; tail-feathers narrower and more pointed; first primary rounded. There is a great amount of individual variation in these immatures.

MALES

		WING	TAIL	CULMEN
Viti Levu, Malaki	4 ♂ ad.	67–69 (68.2)	57–60 (58.7)	14.1–15.0 (14.5)
Ovalau	2 ♂ ad.	69, 69	59, 59	15.1, 15.7
Kandavu	13 ♂ ad.	67–72 (69.4)	57–63 (60.3)	14.2–15.0 (14.6)
Vanua Levu	4 ♂ ad.	68 (68.0)	58–61 (59.2)	14.1–14.9 (14.5)
Rambi	5 ♂ ad.	69 (69.0)		14.8–15.5 (15.1)
Taviuni	4 ♂ ad.	70, 71 (70.5)	59, 60 (59.5)	14.8–15.5 (15.1)

FEMALES

		WING	TAIL	CULMEN
Viti Levu	1 ♀ ad.	65	57.5	13.9
Ovalau	4 ♀ ad.	64–68 (66.2)	56, 57 (56.5)	14.9–15.9 (15.3)
Kandavu	6 ♀ ad.	64–67 (65.7)	56–59 (57.4)	13.4–14.1 (13.9)
Vanua Levu	2 ♀ ad.		51	13.6, 14.7 (14.2)
Rambi	4 ♀ ad.	65	57	14.0–15.0 (14.5)
Taviuni	1 ♀ ad.	66	55	14.7

RANGE.—Western Fiji Islands (Ovalau, Viti Levu, Malaki, Mbengha, Kandavu, Yankuve, Vanua Kula, Ono, Mbulia, Vuro, Yanganga, Vanua Levu, Kio, Rambi, Yanutha, Taviuni, and Ngamia). Curiously missing on Ngau, Koro, Vatu leile, and the entire Yasawa group.

The majority of birds from Vanua Levu, Rambi, Kio, and Taviuni are molting. They were collected in December and January.

Birds from the various islands of the range, as stated above, agree fairly well with each other. Birds from Kandavu, Viti Levu, and Vanua Levu have on the average smaller bills. Kandavu birds are rather light, and birds from Vanua Levu have sometimes the white tips of the tail-feathers rather large.

Mayrornis lessoni orientalis, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 251318, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Yangasa Cluster, eastern Fiji Islands; August 8, 1924; R. H. Beck and J. G. Correia.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to *lessoni*, but much larger; bill long and slender; general coloration darker; lower rump gray as the back, upper tail-coverts pure black; greater upper wing-coverts, secondaries, and tertials with neutral gray, not whitish-gray edges; under wing-coverts with broad grayish bases; tibial feathering dark gray or blackish; cheeks and ear-coverts darker gray; superciliary frequently reduced in size.

MALES

		WING	TAIL	CULMEN
Yangasa Cluster	10 ♂ ad.	73–79 (76.2)	66–72 (67.5)	17.1–18.3 (17.8)
Ongea Levu	6 ♂ ad.	75–78 (76.7)	66–71 (68.4)	17.6–17.9 (17.8)
Explorers Islands	9 ♂ ad.	74–77 (75.2)	64–69 (66.6)	17.0–17.9 (17.5)
Moala	10 ♂ ad.	73–76 (74.8)	64–68 (66.4)	17.1–18.5 (17.8)
Tarsus 20–21 mm.				

FEMALES

Yangasa Cluster	7 ♀ ad.	72–75 (72.9)	64–67 (65.3)	16.5–17.3 (17.0)
Ongea Levu	8 ♀ ad.	71–74 (72.8)	64–66 (65.2)	16.7–17.4 (16.9)
Explorers Islands	10 ♀ ad.	69–73 (70.6)	61–66 (63.6)	16.3–17.1 (16.8)
Moala	9 ♀ ad.	70–74 (71.9)	62–66 (63.7)	15.9–17.9 (17.1)

RANGE.—Eastern Fiji Islands: Ongea Levu, Yangasa Cluster, Namuka ilau, Marambo, Kambara, Wangava, Mothe, Oneata, Aiwa,

Vanua vatu, Thithia, Vatu vara, Mango, Explorers Islands (Vanua mbalavu, Avea, Munia, Sovu Rocks, Thikombia ilau), Naitamba, and Moala. Not found on: Matuku, Totoya, Fulanga, Komo, Lakemba, Naiau, Tuvutha, and Yathata, islands which were thoroughly covered by the Whitney South Sea Expedition.

This subspecies is rather uniform over its wide range. Birds from Moala and the Explorers Islands are slightly smaller and have a tendency to be darker. The majority of the specimens cannot be separated satisfactorily.

Mayrornis schistaceus, new species

TYPE.—No. 213996, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Vanikoro Island, Santa Cruz Islands; September 24, 1926; R. H. Beck and J. G. Correia.

ADULT MALE AND FEMALE.—Slate-gray, underside, particularly throat, lighter; wings fuscous, wing-coverts and secondaries with slate-gray, primaries with light gray edges; inner edges of wing-feathers whitish; axillaries light gray, under wing-coverts slate-gray; tail black, three outermost pairs of tail-feathers with white or light spots on the inner web; outermost pair also with light shaded area on the tip of the outer web; three central pairs of tail-feathers sometimes with a pale edge; upper tail-coverts black or dark gray.

Iris brown, bill blackish blue with light-colored tomia, feet bluish-gray.

IMMATURE.—Very similar to adult, but bill yellowish brown; tail-feathers narrower and more pointed; edges of wing-coverts and primary-coverts soft, decomposed and sometimes ochraceous; primaries rounded.

	WING	TAIL	CULMEN
8 ♂ ad.	69–72 (70.4)	60–64 (61.5)	16.5–17.0 (16.8)
14 ♀ ad.	64–70 (67.1)	57–63 (59.7)	15.2–16.4 (16.0)

Tarsus, 20 mm.

RANGE.—Vanikoro Island, Santa Cruz Islands.

This species seems to be a dark representative of *M. lessoni* (Gray) from Fiji. Considering the fact that there are two species of the genus in the Fiji group, it seemed to be wiser to establish *schistaceus* as a full species. *M. schistaceus* differs from *lessoni* in the darker and more uniform coloration. The white marks of *lessoni*, as for example on the face, throat, under tail-coverts, and tail, are in *schistaceus* much reduced or replaced by gray.

Mayrornis is, so far as we know, the only genus of birds occurring in both the Fiji group and in the Santa Cruz group, but not in the New Hebrides.

Mayrornis versicolor, new species

TYPE.—No. 253934, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Ongea Levu, eastern Fiji Islands; July 28, 1924; R. H. Beck and J. G. Correia.

ADULT MALE AND FEMALE.—Crown, hind neck, back, scapulars, rump and upper tail-coverts deep neutral gray; edges of lesser upper wing-coverts, of primary-coverts, and of secondaries deep neutral gray; outer edges of primaries lighter; inner edge of primaries white; edges of greater upper wing-coverts partly grayish, partly pale ochraceous; underside between light ochraceous-buff and pinkish cinnamon, lighter on chin and upper throat, almost whitish in the middle of the lower belly; under tail-coverts light ochraceous-buff; axillaries buff, under wing-coverts buff with gray bases; forehead, lores, narrow superciliary, and feathers on lower eyelid deep buff; postocular region and ear-coverts mixed grayish and buffy; tibial feathers gray with buffy tips; tail-feathers brownish gray with broad buffy tips which decrease in size gradually from the outermost toward the central pair, which has just a light-colored margin.

Iris brown, bill bluish black with light-colored tomia, feet grayish.

IMMATURE.—Very similar to adult, but bill brownish, mandible yellowish; wings and tail of juvenal structure.

	WING	TAIL	CULMEN
10 ♂ ad.	68–71 (69.7)	58–63 (60.1)	14.7–15.1 (14.9)
5 ♀ ad.	65–68 (66.4)	57–59 (58.2)	14.1–14.9 (14.4)

RANGE.—Ongea Levu Island, eastern Fiji Islands.

It is highly interesting to find this species, the most specialized of the group, restricted to one island. On the same island occurs *Mayrornis lessoni orientalis*. We have thus another case of two immigration waves meeting on the same island without intergradation. There are, however, two specimens in our series of *Mayrornis l. orientalis* from Ongea Levu, which are not quite typical and might be regarded as having *versicolor* blood. Both birds (No. 251204 and No. 251308) are lighter, less grayish underneath. They also have the upper tail-coverts mixed with grayish; one of them has the under parts slightly washed with buff, the other more noticeably so; one bird has a very short bill, and the other has the tips of the tail-feathers washed with buff. We have here a case similar to that in *Myzomela* (see Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 516, p. 24).